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July 5, 1968

Mr. Owen A. Basil, Jr.
Assistant Director, Student Union
University of Maryland
College Park, Md.

Dear Mr. Basil,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of June 30, which reached here today. If I am not at the University sooner, I intend getting there a little before time on the 12th. because there are some things it occurs to me might be appropriate for such an audience that I should like to discuss with you. I can talk for several hours on this subject without repeating myself, but I also wonder, as I did in speaking to Mr. Lauth, if it would not be a good idea to begin by speaking but briefly and letting the students take as much of the direction as possible (for I can always steer it) and ask as much as possible of this subject, which can be discussed for hours without beginning to exhaust it. I think even if the questioning is heated I can tell a pretty complete story, dispassionately and calmly.

Your plans are more than satisfactory. I gave Mr. Lauth the wrong impression, I fear. I have no slides. What I was wondering is whether we could project non-photographic materials, such as Xeroxed copies of documents. Do not worry about it, for I can do either way. A means of projecting such things is not at all essential. I had in mind some of the exhibits reproduced in the back of the book and a few others. What I would like, if it presents no problem, is a tape recording of what I say. This is not essential, merely desirable. This is a subject many people regard as controversial and I prefer, when possible, to have a record of what I say. I can bring my own non-commercial tape machine for this.

I will bring a supply of the book that I'll be more than happy to autograph. I, too, am looking forward to discussing this subject with a student group, as much, frankly, as with the faculty. If any changes in what you have in mind seem desirable, by all means make them, for my time that day is flexible - and this means if it seems at all desirable, we can run a little longer. Someone will, I assume, let me know when it is time to stop.

If there are any of the collateral aspects you or any of the faculty thing I should touch on, I would appreciate knowing of them.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg